

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND URBAN POLICY**

Thursday, April 20, 2006

9:00 a.m.

Room 308, House Office Building

Chair Stakoe called the Standing Committee on Local Government and Urban Policy to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reps. Stakoe, Elsenheimer, Van Regenmorter, Robertson, Nitz, Baxter, Schuitmaker, Accavitti, Donigan, Vagnozzi, Virgil Smith (11/11)

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: (0/11)

Representative Nitz, supported by **Representative Robertson**, moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting held on March 28, 2006. Hearing no objection, the **motion prevailed** with unanimous consent.

The **Chair** laid **Senate Bill 945** before the committee.

SB 945	Toy	Counties; boards and commissions; drain commissioner; allow county to determine if drain commissioner is an elected position or an appointed position.
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Senator Toy explained the intent of the bill.

Tom Postmus, Kent County Commissioner, testified in **support** of the bill and answered questions.

Representative Hildenbrand submitted a testimony card in **support** of the bill, but did not speak.

Liesl Clark, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture, testified in **opposition** to the bill.

Representative Robertson assumed the Chair, the time being **9:25 a.m.**

Joseph Rivet, representing the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners, testified in **opposition** to the bill.

Chair Stakoe resumed the Chair, the time being **9:31 a.m.**

The following people submitted testimony cards in **opposition** to the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Nadine Nosal*, representing the International Union – UAW;

*submitted written testimony

Becky Rininger, Allegan County Drain Commissioner;

Blaine Van Sickle, Calhoun County Drain Commissioner; and

Tonia Ritter, representing Michigan Farm Bureau.

Representative Michael Sak submitted copies of a newspaper article, written correspondence and constituent emails in opposition to the bill.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the **Chair** declared the meeting adjourned, the time being **9:35 a.m.**

Representative John Stakoe, Chair

Jean Hamelin, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-5632